

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 00786 311513Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 IO-13 EB-07 AID-05 OMB-01
TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
/085 W

-----312112Z 005932 /72

R 311425Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9026
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, PLO, IS, JO
SUBJECT: WEST BANK - VIEWS OF TULKARM MAYOR

1. ON MAY 29, I CALLED ON TULKARM'S NATIONALISTIC
MAYOR HILMI HANNUN TO GET HIS REACTION TO ISRAEL'S
ELECTION RESULTS. OSTENSIBLE PURPOSE OF VISIT
WAS TO DONATE SEVERAL BOOKS IN ARABIC, INCLUDING
PRESIDENT CARTER'S BIOGRAPHY, TO MUNICIPAL LIBRARY.

2. HANNUN INITIALLY TOOK STANDARD LINE THAT
WEST BANK PALESTINIANS SAW NO ESSENTIAL DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN LABOR AND LIKUS. A LITTLE LATER, HOWEVER,
HE ADMITTED THAT PEOPLE IN HIS DISTRICT WERE VERY
WORRIED THAT THE WEST BANK MIGHT BE ANNEXED AND
THEIR PRESENT STATUS WITH ALL OF ITS DRAWBACKS
MIGHT BECOME THAT OF ISRAEL'S ARABS THEREBY CUTTING
OFF THEIR CONTACT WITH AND ACCESS TO THE ARAB WORLD.

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3. IN CONTRAST TO HANNUN'S PREVIOUS EXCORIATIONS OF
U.S. POLICY, HE PRAISED PRESIDENT CARTER AS A
STRONG LEADER CAPABLE OF TAKING MAJOR DECISIONS.
HE APPEARED TO BE REASSURED BY MY REAFFIRMATION
OF THE PRESIDENT'S DETERMINATION TO TRY TO RECONVENE
GENEVA CONFERENCE.

4. COMMENTING ON THE TWIN CITY PROJECT WHEREBY WEST BANK TOWNS ARE TWINNED WITH CITIES IN AFFLUENT ARAB STATES FOR PURPOSES OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, HANNUN SAID HE THOUGHT MODALITIES CURRENTLY EMPLOYED WERE WRONG. VARIOUS MAYORS AND DELEGATIONS ARE WHEELING AROUND ARAB WORLD IN AN UNCOORDINATED FASHION, OCCASIONALLY GOING TO SAME WELL MORE THAN ONCE. HANNUN THOUGHT THAT MAYORS SHOULD HAVE PUT TOGETHER A DELEGATION WHICH COULD HAVE TRAVELLED TO ARAB WORLD TO EXPLAIN WEST BANK PLIGHT UNDER MILITARY OCCUPATION THEREBY LAYING FOUNDATION FOR CONTINUING ASSISTANCE RATHER THAN SERIES OF ONE TIME GRANTS.

5. COMMENT: HANNUN HAS WELL-DESERVED REPUTATION AS ONE OF MOST NATIONALISTIC AND OUTSPOKEN WEST BANK MAYORS. THIS WAS FIRST TIME I HAD SEEN HIM IN RELATIVELY SUBDUED AND PRO-U.S. FRAME OF MIND. I BELIEVE HE IS GENUINELY WORRIED OVER A LIKUD-DOMINATED GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TOWARD THE WEST BANK. IN ADDITION, TULKARM IS CLOSE TO THE GREEN LINE AND WOULD BE A PRIME CANDIDATE FOR INCLUSION WITHIN ISRAEL IN THE EVENT MINOR MODIFICATIONS OF 1967 LINE OCCUR.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 31-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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